



**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Immigration Committee Minutes
DRAFT
September 3, 2019
Community Legal Aid Society, Inc
840 Walker Road
Dover, DE 19904**

Introductions:

Members in attendance were: Laura Graham (CLASI), Carolyn Becker (WPD), Kathleen Seipel (FCCSP), Maite Aros (CHILD, Inc.), Adrienne Owen (DSP), Maria Matos (LACC), Maureen Monagle, Maribel Valasquez (La Esperanza) and via teleconference Sue Ryan (DCADV).

- I. Public/Community Partners in attendance were: Viviane Sanchez (DSP / DE Victim Center), Karen Beltran (FCCSP), Maria Aguilar (FCCSP), Marylkate McShane (FCCSP), Jessica Carino (Abrietro Puertas of People Place 2), Jennifer Castaneda (FCCSP), Pedro Torres (NCCPD), Adriana Ochoa (NCCPD), Sabdi Vazquez (CLASI), Mayra Reyes-Cruz (Georgetown PD), Gloria Smith (DCJAVS), Jennifer Fuqua (La Esperanza) Diane Wikuliez (Public), Kate Sell (CLASI), Cindy Garcia (CLASI), (CLASI), Sherlyn Torres (LACC) and via teleconference Kelly Head (CLASI)

DVCC Staff: Dayna Belfiore and Maureen Monagle

- II. Review of meeting minutes from March 5, 2019 and April 30, 2019 meetings
a. Minutes were approved for March 5, 2019 and April 30, 2019
- III. Overview of Committee Member Agencies and their work with immigrant victims of domestic violence.

**Agency: Child Inc.,
507 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, DE 19809
(302) 762-8989**

Programs/services offered:

- Treatment programs for victims of domestic violence.
- Domestic Violence Classes for offenders
- Helping Children Heal Program
- 2 Shelters in New Castle County
- 3 Visitation Centers
- Advocacy Program in Courthouses

- All State Program for providing financial support to victims
- Family Services Liaisons
- Domestic Violence Community Health Advocate- Medical Partnership between Delaware Coalition, West Side Care, and Christiana Care.
- Parenting Classes offered in Spanish

Agency: Community Legal Aid Society, Inc (CLASI)

Locations in all 3 counties. Sussex: 302-856-0038 / Kent 302-674-8500 / New Castle 302-575-0660

Programs/services offered:

- Non-profit law firm which provides free legal representation for PFA matters, some custody and divorce matters
- Provide legal representation for immigration matters such as U-VISA and VAWA.
- Created a new Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault screening tool which can be used to identify unmet legal needs or family law issues. If the screening indicates an unmet need, partnered providers at Child Inc. and YWCA's SARC may refer the individual to CLASI.

Agency: Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV)

100 W. 10th Street Suite 903 Wilmington, DE 19801

(302) 658-2958

Programs/services offered:

- Statewide non-profit organization
- Provide training, outreach, and prevention services.
- Public advocacy around domestic violence legislation and laws.
- Community Health work
- Recipient of the Rape and Education grant
- Involved in Delta Impact- project between high schools, health clinics and People's Place.

Agency: Delaware State Police

1441 N Dupont Hwy, Dover, DE 19901

(302) 739-5901

Programs/services offered:

- Collaborate with victim advocates and partner domestic violence agencies or advocates
- Remain connected to Domestic Violence issues.
- Implement domestic violence training for police officers.

Agency: Family Counseling Center of St. Paul's

600 S. Harrison St. and 301 N. Van Buren St.

Wilmington, DE 19805

(302) 576-4136

Programs/services offered:

- Outpatient behavioral health services including therapy and case management
- Assistance in navigating the legal system, employment systems and health systems

Agency: La Esperanza
216 N Race St, Georgetown, DE 19947
(302) 854-9262

Programs/services offered:

- Assist victims through the criminal justice system
- Assistance with steps toward the citizen process
- Provide transportation, workshops
- Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse program (PASA) for youths
- Counseling and support services

Agency: Latin American Community Center
Address: 403 N Van Buren St, Wilmington, DE 19805
Phone: (302) 655-7338

Programs/services offered:

- Youth services: Early Childhood Education (ECE), lifelong learning
- Family Support Services
- Financial Literacy services
- English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Classes for Divorcing and Separating Parents
- Workforce Developments
- A Charter School
- Court advocacy

Agency: People Place
Locations in Milford, Millsboro, Seaford and Smyrna
(302) 422-8033

Programs/services offered:

- Turning Point Program
- 2 Shelters (located in New Castle County)
- Mediation Center
- Visitation Centers
- 24 Hour hotline (Spanish speaking)
- Rapid rehousing (available to undocumented individuals)
- Housing, legal, employment, and childcare services

IV. New Business

- a. **Committee bylaws-** The bylaws of the Committee were reviewed. As a reminder, voting is limited to Committee Members or the Agency designee.
- b. **Public Charge Policy-** The Policy is intended to limit the number of individuals who may receive green cards. Specifically, the Charge bars individuals who have received or are currently receiving certain public benefits.

- i. Expected to go into effect on October 15, 2019. Organizations nationwide have filed lawsuits challenging the legality of the rule. Thus, even after publication, legal challenges could delay implementation. Some agencies in Delaware have indicated they will be joining on an Amicus brief.
- ii. Individuals holding VAWA, T-VISA and U-VISA are statutorily exempt from this rule.
- iii. There is a fair amount of misinformation circulating with regard to the type of benefits that are included in the new/proposed Public Charge Rule. Agencies are encouraged to inform clients that U.S. Citizen children receiving benefits are not part of the policy. Further, individuals may continue to receive benefits / programs not included in the new/proposed rule, such as WIC and or Headstart programs, as neither program is included in the Charge
- iv. CLASI will be creating bilingual information pamphlets about the parameters of the Charge. The pamphlets are expected to be completed by mid-September.
- v. If agencies have questions/training needs arise after the pamphlets are created and disseminated, please contact Laura Graham so she may connect you to an agency or resource that may be able to help.

V. Old Business

a. U-VISA

- i. Status of removal proceedings if U-VISA application has been denied- USCIS can now refer individuals whose U Visa / T Visa / VAWA Petitions have been denied to removal proceedings. While this policy exists, officers nationwide and in Delaware do not seem to be enforcing the policy.
- ii. Only 10,000 U-Visa are issued per year. As such, individuals may be placed on a waitlist. Individuals are usually on the waitlist for about 6-12 months. While on the waiting list individuals can obtain a temporary work permit. Note that processing times (i.e. the amount of time it takes to have one's case adjudicated and placed on said waiting list) are approaching 5 years.

VI. Upcoming Events

- i. September 7, 2019- Spanish Festival in Milford, DE, hosted by La Esperanza. Seeking volunteers for the festival. Expected to be well attended and therefore an opportunity for outreach. Booth space is still available for community organizations. For agency's who would like to have their materials disseminated at the event, please email or drop off your materials to La Esperanza.
- ii. September 15, 2019- Wilmington Spanish Festival located at Blue Rocks Daniel S Frawley Stadium, 801 Shipyard Drive Wilmington, DE 19801
- iii. September 20, 2019- Veterans Stand Down Event- Schutte Park, 10 Electric Avenue Dover, DE 19904
- iv. Hispanic Heritage Celebration
 - 1. Milton Library- September 28, 2019
 - 2. Route 9 Library- September 21, 2019
 - 3. Dover Library- October 19, 2019

VII. **Future Meeting:** The next meeting will take place on December 3, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at Community Legal Aid Society, 840 Walker Street, Dover DE